COMIC BOOK SECTION

RECORD
PHILADELPHIA

ACTION Mystery ADVENTURE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1944

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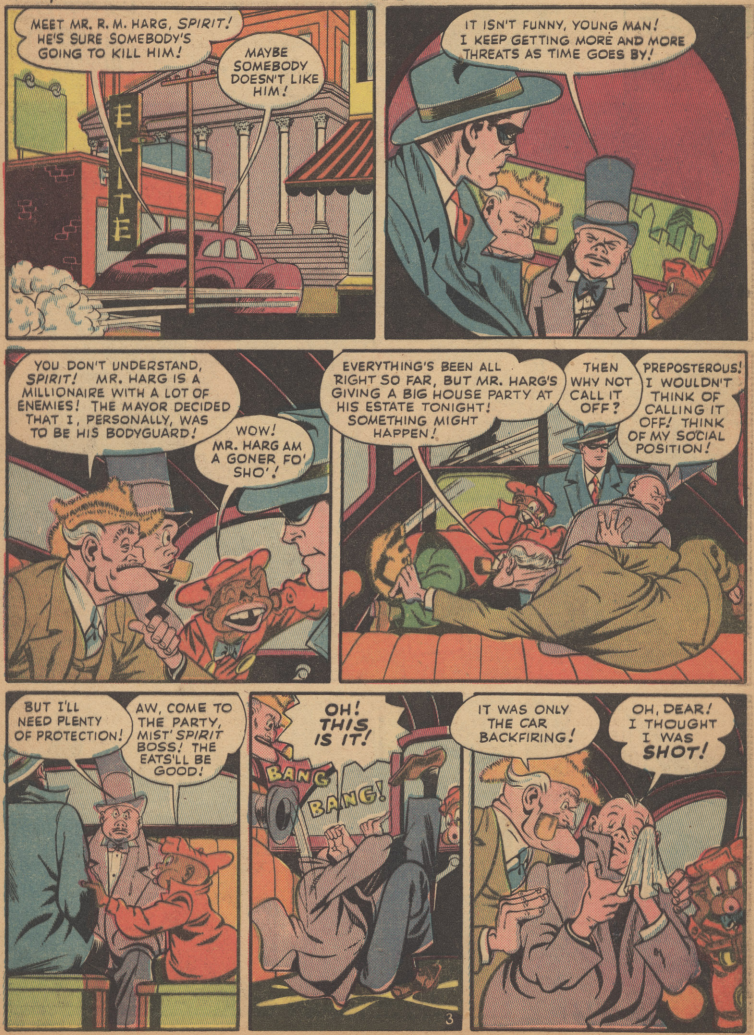
WEBCOMIC UNIVERSE.COM


MEET MR. R. M. HARG, SPIRIT! HE'S SURE SOMEBODY'S GOING TO KILL HIM!
MAYBE SOMEBODY DOESN'T LIKE HIM!
ELITE
IT ISN'T FUNNY, YOUNG MAN! I KEEP GETTING MORE AND MORE THREATS AS TIME GOES BY!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SPIRIT! MR. HARG IS A MILLIONAIRE WITH A LOT OF ENEMIES! THE MAYOR DECIDED THAT I, PERSONALLY, WAS TO BE HIS BODYGUARD!
WOW! MR. HARG AM A GONER FO' SHO'!
EVERYTHING'S BEEN ALL RIGHT SO FAR, BUT MR. HARG'S GIVING A BIG HOUSE PARTY AT HIS ESTATE TONIGHT! SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN!
THEN WHY NOT CALL IT OFF?
PREPOSTEROUS! I WOULDN'T THINK OF CALLING IT OFF! THINK OF MY SOCIAL POSITION!
BUT I'LL NEED PLENTY OF PROTECTION!
AW, COME TO THE PARTY, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! THE EATS'LL BE GOOD!
OH! THIS IS IT!
BANG
BANG!
IT WAS ONLY THE CAR BACKFIRING!
OH, DEAR! I THOUGHT I WAS SHOT!
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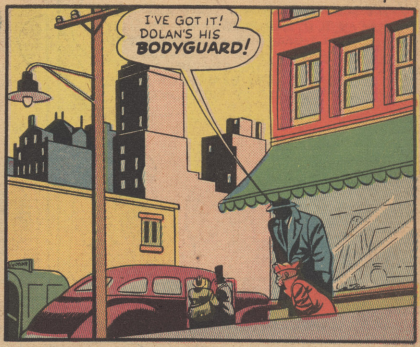
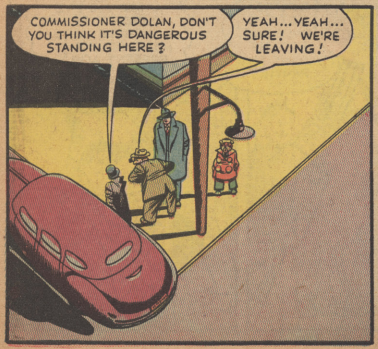
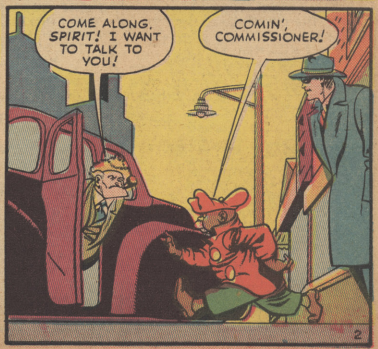

I'VE GOT IT! DOLAN'S HIS BODYGUARD!

BOO!

OH!... IT'S YOU!
WHOM DID YOU EXPECT?

CERTAINLY NOT YOU! YOU'RE NEVER AROUND WHEN I NEED YOU!
MEANING THAT YOU NEED ME NOW?


COMMISSIONER DOLAN, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S DANGEROUS STANDING HERE?
YEAH... YEAH... SURE! WE'RE LEAVING!

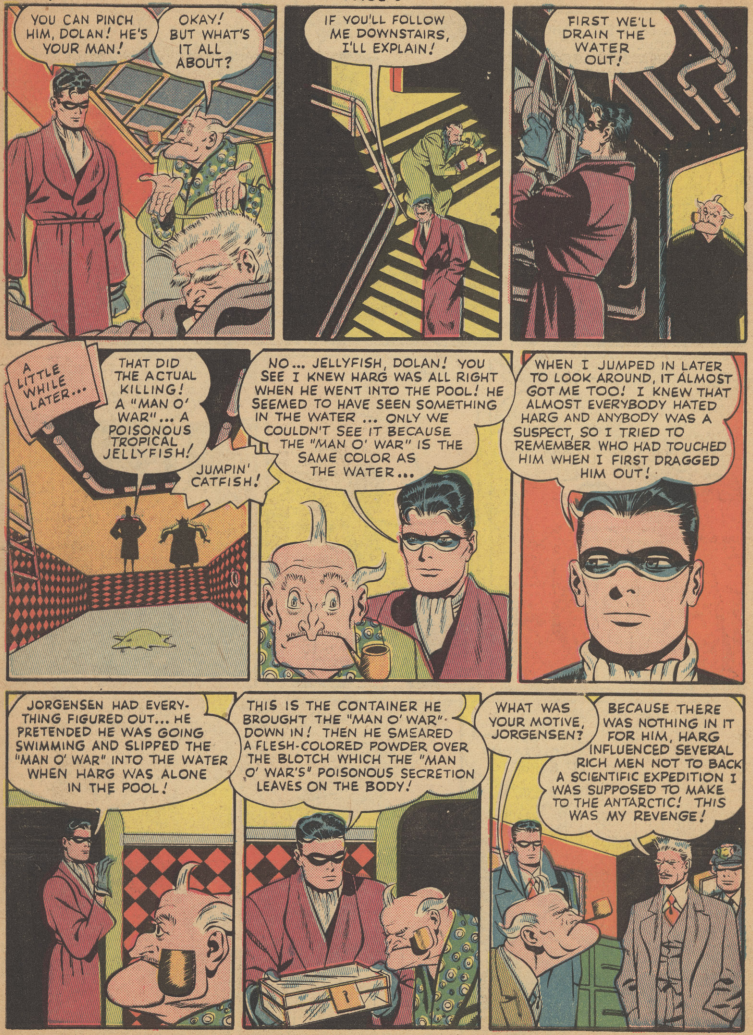

COME ALONG, SPIRIT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
COMIN', COMMISSIONER!
2

THE OLD BUZZARD! IT'D SERVE HIM RIGHT IF SOMEBODY DID PLUG HIM! THIS LIZZIE BACKFIRES BECAUSE HE WON'T SPEND THE DOUGH TO HAVE THE CARBON CLEANED OUT OF THE ENGINE! YET HE'LL SPEND FIFTY GRAND FOR A PARTY TO KEEP UP HIS FRONT!
YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, EH?
LIKE HIM? I HATE HIM! I WISH HE WERE DEAD!
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, DAT CHAUFFEUR MAN AM A SUSPECT!
EXCELLENT DEDUCTION, MY DEAR EBONY!
THAT NIGHT AT THE HARG ESTATE...
HARG THINKS HE CAN SOFT SOAP ME BY INVITING ME TO HIS ANNUAL BRAWL! THE HEEL SWINDLED ME OUT OF TWENTY THOUSAND LAST WEEK!
THAT'S NOTHING! HE DROVE ME OUT OF BUSINESS COMPLETELY!
I SAW HARG'S THIRD WIFE, THE OTHER DAY! SHE SAID IF SHE DOESN'T KILL HIM, IT WON'T BE FOR LACK OF TRYING!
THAT'S FUNNY! HIS FOURTH SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING!
THERE GOES HARG, THE TWO-FACED HYPOCRITE! I HATE THE SIGHT OF HIM!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE! BUT HE THROWS SWELL PARTIES!
AFTER ALL I'VE HEARD, IT SEEMS A MIRACLE HARG REACHED HIS PRESENT AGE!

Later THAT NIGHT...
WHO'S FOR A SWIM IN MY NEW HUNDRED-FOOT POOL?
I AM!
COUNT ME IN!
YOU GOING SWIMMING TOO, DOLAN?
OH!... YOU'RE HERE!
I'LL BE DISAPPOINTED IF NOBODY EVEN TRIES TO KILL HIM AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE THE MAYOR'S GIVING YOU!
DON'T SAY THAT! HARG WAS THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE MAYOR'S CAMPAIGN FUND! IF HARG'S KILLED ... BRR-RR!
WELL, MAYBE IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF WE CATCH THE MURDERER!
STOP IT, SPIRIT! YOU TALK AS IF HE WERE DEAD ALREADY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU SISSIES? THE WATER TOO COLD FOR YOU?
YOU BET IT IS!
HELP! HELP! I---I--- ARGH-H-H!
OH-H-H! IT'S HAPPENED!
5

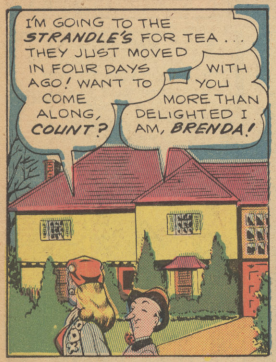
LEND A HAND HERE!
THE POOR CHAP'S DEAD!
BUT HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
THAT REMAINS TO BE DISCOVERED!
LET'S TAKE HIM UPSTAIRS AND GET A DOCTOR!
SEE THAT NOBODY TOUCHES THE BODY, DOLAN! I'M STAYING DOWN HERE FOR AWHILE!
I'M SUNK!
MIGHT AS WELL! I'M WET ANYWAY!
HOLY JUMPIN' JEEPERS!
PUFF!
PUFF!
WHEW!... THAT WAS CLOSE!
HMMMMMMMM! VERY INTERESTING!
BZZ... BZZZ!
OF COURSE... I'LL BE GLAD TO!
6

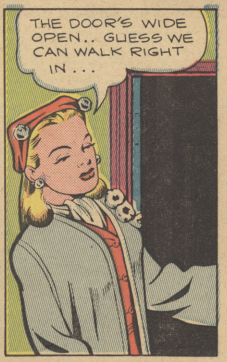
NOW ... LET'S SEE! WHO FIRST TOUCHED HARG'S BODY WHEN I DRAGGED IT OUT OF THE WATER?
THAT MAN ... COULD YOU TELL ME WHO HE IS ... AND WHAT HE DOES?
OH, THAT'S JORGENSEN! HE'S SOME SORT OF SCIENTIST! NICE CHAP! SPENT YEARS IN THE TROPICS!
JORGENSEN! I'VE HEARD OF HIM! HE'S A FAMOUS ICHTHYOLOGIST!...
HOW DO YOU DO, MR. JORGENSEN!
ER ... HOW DO YOU DO?
JUST AS I THOUGHT! ... A FLESH-COLORED POWDER!
THERE! THE POWDER COMES OFF, AND THERE'S THE BLOTCH!
THAT'S THE DISCOLORATION I'D EXPECT!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR SHOOTING, NOW, MR. JORGENSEN! WE'VE GOT YOU!
BANG!

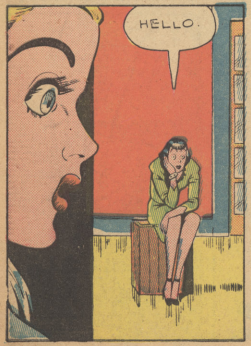

YOU CAN PINCH HIM, DOLAN! HE'S YOUR MAN!
OKAY! BUT WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME DOWNSTAIRS, I'LL EXPLAIN!
FIRST WE'LL DRAIN THE WATER OUT!
A LITTLE WHILE LATER...
THAT DID THE ACTUAL KILLING! A "MAN O' WAR"... A POISONOUS TROPICAL JELLYFISH!
JUMPIN' CATFISH!
NO... JELLYFISH, DOLAN! YOU SEE I KNEW HARG WAS ALL RIGHT WHEN HE WENT INTO THE POOL! HE SEEMED TO HAVE SEEN SOMETHING IN THE WATER... ONLY WE COULDN'T SEE IT BECAUSE THE "MAN O' WAR" IS THE SAME COLOR AS THE WATER...
WHEN I JUMPED IN LATER TO LOOK AROUND, IT ALMOST GOT ME TOO! I KNEW THAT ALMOST EVERYBODY HATED HARG AND ANYBODY WAS A SUSPECT, SO I TRIED TO REMEMBER WHO HAD TOUCHED HIM WHEN I FIRST DRAGGED HIM OUT!
JORGENSEN HAD EVERYTHING FIGURED OUT... HE PRETENDED HE WAS GOING SWIMMING AND SLIPPED THE "MAN O' WAR" INTO THE WATER WHEN HARG WAS ALONE IN THE POOL!
THIS IS THE CONTAINER HE BROUGHT THE "MAN O' WAR" DOWN IN! THEN HE SMEARED A FLESH-COLORED POWDER OVER THE BLOTCH WHICH THE "MAN O' WAR'S" POISONOUS SECRETION LEAVES ON THE BODY!
WHAT WAS YOUR MOTIVE, JORGENSEN?
BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING IN IT FOR HIM, HARG INFLUENCED SEVERAL RICH MEN NOT TO BACK A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION I WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE TO THE ANTARCTIC! THIS WAS MY REVENGE!

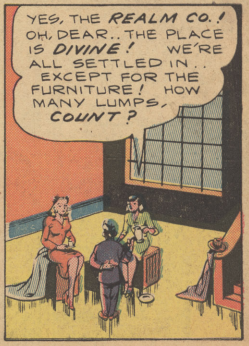
LADY LUCK

By Klaus Nordling









BRENDA, I AM THINKING, THIS IS FOR LADY LUCK TO DECIPHER!
EXACTLY! COUNT, I WANT YOU TO GO HOME AND CALL UP THE REALM CO. AT NOON! ASK THEM TO COME AND MOVE OUT YOUR THINGS AT 4:30! I'LL SEE YOU THEN..
OH, DELIGHTFUL!
THREE MINUTES TO GO! OH, IMPATIENCE
MR DiCHANGE! WHAT ARE YE SKULKIN' AROUN' THIS HERE HALLWAY FER? TRYIN' TO STEAL YER SUITCASE FROM ME AGAIN, I SUPPOSE!
OH, NO, MRS SHORTSHEET!
YE DON'T LAY A FINGER ON THAT SUITCASE UNTIL YE COME THROUGH WITH THREE WEEKS BACK RENT!
ALAS, BUT MRS SHORTSHEET, IN IT IS MY OTHER PAIR OF SOCKS!
YE GOT SHOES, AIN'T YE? ANYWAYS, GOT NO TIME TO TALK TO YOU.. I'M GOIN' OUT!
GRACIOUS! I FEARED MY PHONE CALL SHE WOULD OBSTRUCT!
REALM MOVING STORAGE
YES, MA'M, WE'LL HAVE A VAN AT MR DiCHANGE'S AT 4:30..
AH, THAT'S THE COUNT PHONING IN, AT 12 O'CLOCK, ON THE BUTTON!
WHAT WAS THAT CALL, CRUMM... A CUSTOMER?
NO.. JUST A PERSONAL CALL!
?
THUS, AT 4:30 WE FIND BRENDA BANKS ONCE AGAIN IN THE GUISE OF THE ELUSIVE UNDERWORLD NEMESIS, LADY LUCK...
IT WORKED! HERE THEY COME.. TWO VANS! AND ONE HASN'T A REALM CO. SIGN ON IT!
2

?
?
REAL VAN
REALM VANS

LET THEM IN, COUNT! I'LL BE OUT OF SIGHT!
KNOCK KNOCK

WHERE'S THE JUNK, BUDDY?
WE'LL TAKE CARE O' YOU MISTER!

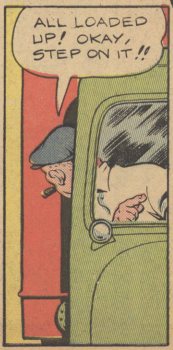
FOR CRIPES SAKE! THEY AIN'T NOTHIN' IN THIS GOAT'S NEST Y' COULDN'T CART IN A PAPER BAG!
AH, LE'S GO!
ER.. SIRS.. IT IS DOWN-STAIRS I WISH TO BE MOVED OUT... MRS. SHORTSHEET'S FURNITURE!

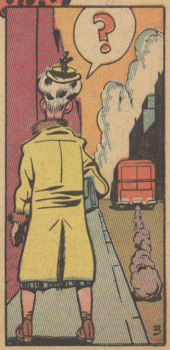
GANG-WAY!
HEY! WHOSE JOB IS THIS?
WHY, COUNT! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO??

LA! SUDDENLY A STROKE OF GENIUS OCCURS MY SUITCASE TO GET FROM MRS SHORTSHEET AWAY! IN ADDITION A FINE JOKE TO PERFORM ON THAT HORRIBLE LAND-LADY! YOU SEE?

WHERE DO YOU REALM GUYS GET OFF MUSCLIN' IN ON US?

DAT'S RIGHT, WRAP DEM MUGS UP AN' TAKE 'EM ALONG WIT' ALL THE JUNK!


ALL LOADED UP! OKAY, STEP ON IT.!!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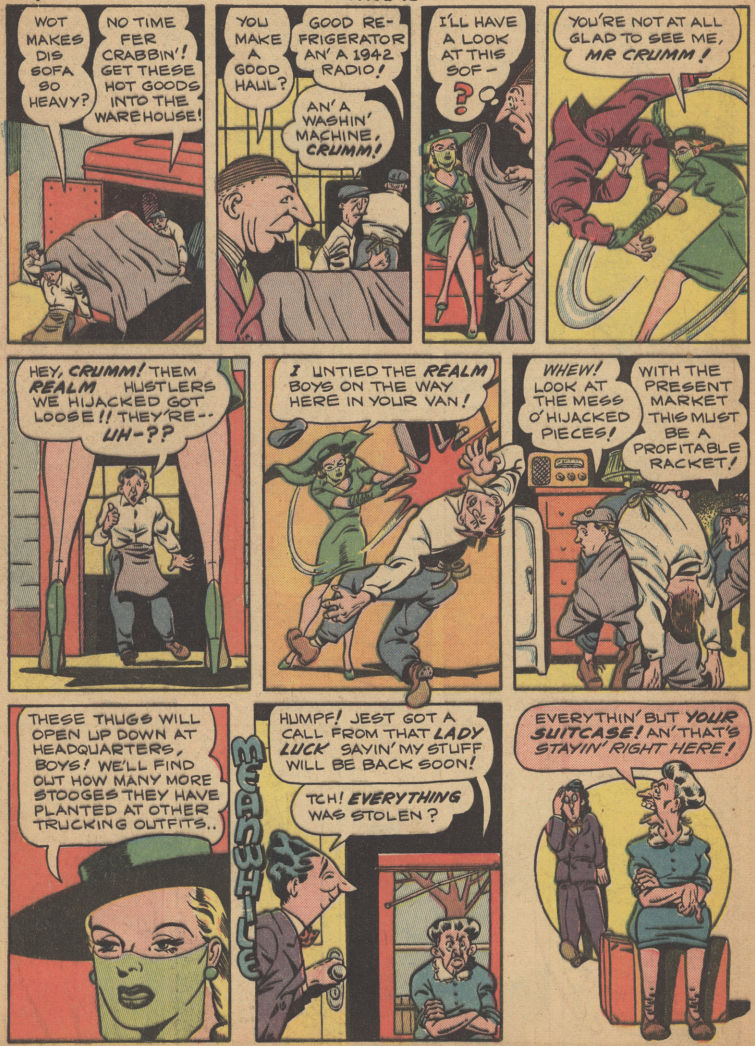
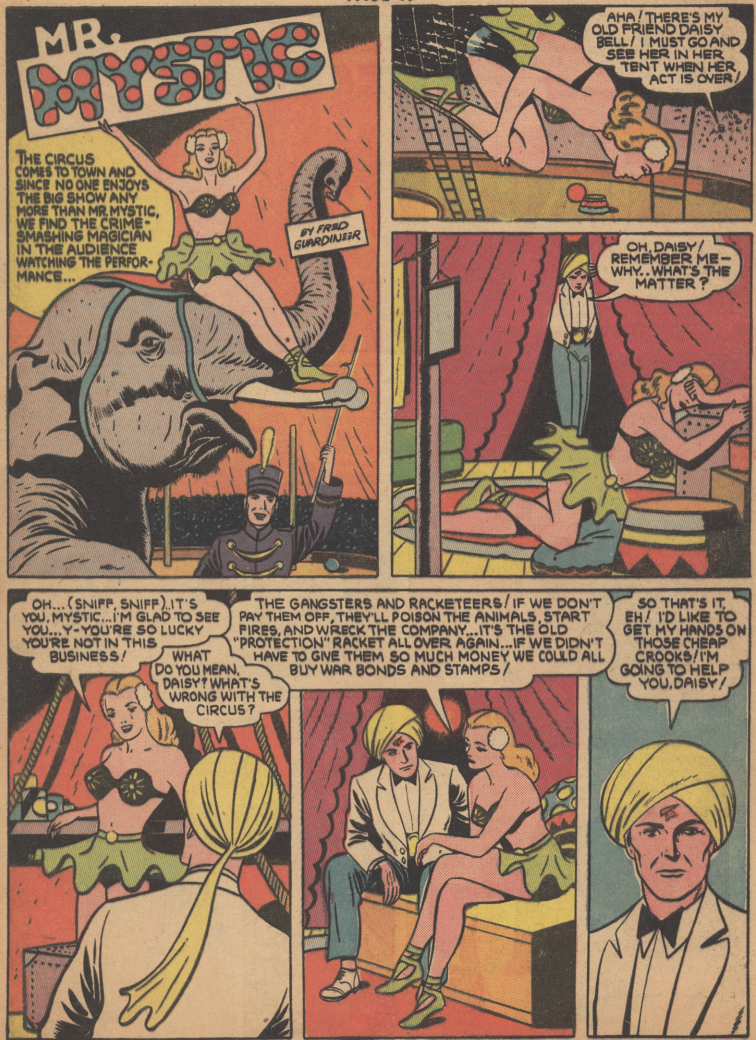
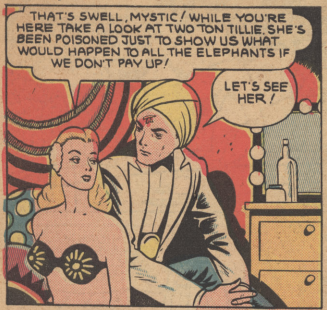
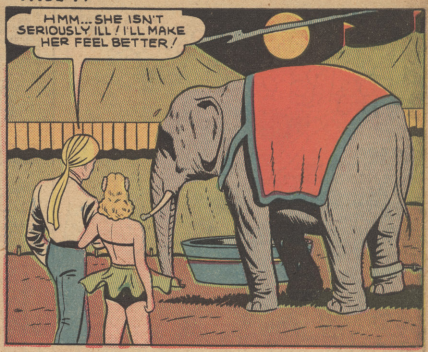
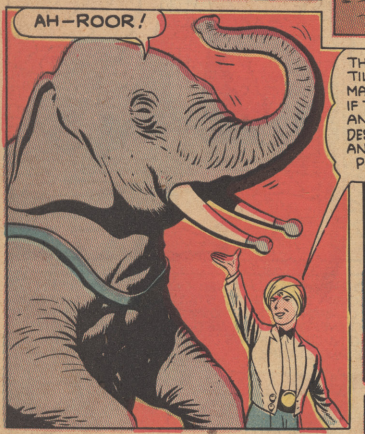
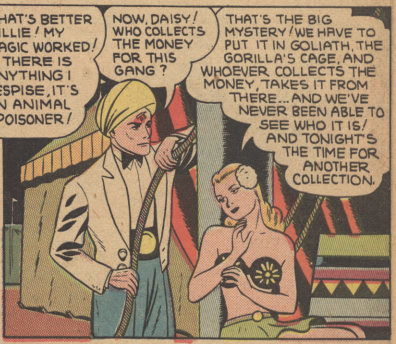

WOT MAKES DIS SOFA SO HEAVY?
NO TIME FER CRABBIN'! GET THESE HOT GOODS INTO THE WAREHOUSE!
YOU MAKE A GOOD HAUL?
GOOD REFRIGERATOR AN' A 1942 RADIO!
AN' A WASHIN' MACHINE, CRUMM!
I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THIS SOF—
?
YOU'RE NOT AT ALL GLAD TO SEE ME, MR CRUMM!
HEY, CRUMM! THEM REALM HUSTLERS WE HIJACKED GOT LOOSE!! THEY'RE-- UH-??
I UNTIED THE REALM BOYS ON THE WAY HERE IN YOUR VAN!
WHEW! LOOK AT THE MESS O' HIJACKED PIECES!
WITH THE PRESENT MARKET THIS MUST BE A PROFITABLE RACKET!
THESE THUGS WILL OPEN UP DOWN AT HEADQUARTERS, BOYS! WE'LL FIND OUT HOW MANY MORE STOOGES THEY HAVE PLANTED AT OTHER TRUCKING OUTFITS..
HUMPF! JEST GOT A CALL FROM THAT LADY LUCK SAYIN' MY STUFF WILL BE BACK SOON!
TCH! EVERYTHING WAS STOLEN?
EVERYTHIN' BUT YOUR SUITCASE! AN' THAT'S STAYIN' RIGHT HERE!

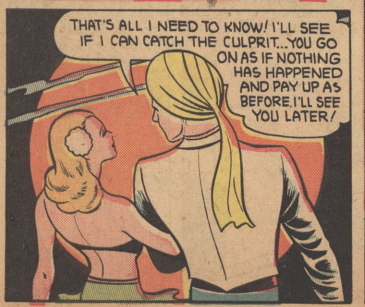

MR. MYSTIC
THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN AND SINCE NO ONE ENJOYS THE BIG SHOW ANY MORE THAN MR. MYSTIC, WE FIND THE CRIME-SMASHING MAGICIAN IN THE AUDIENCE WATCHING THE PERFORMANCE...
BY FRED GUARDINEER
AHA! THERE'S MY OLD FRIEND DAISY BELL! I MUST GO AND SEE HER IN HER TENT WHEN HER ACT IS OVER!
OH, DAISY! REMEMBER ME—WHY..WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH... (SNIFF, SNIFF) IT'S YOU, MYSTIC... I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU... Y-YOU'RE SO LUCKY YOU'RE NOT IN THIS BUSINESS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DAISY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CIRCUS?
THE GANGSTERS AND RACKETEERS! IF WE DON'T PAY THEM OFF, THEY'LL POISON THE ANIMALS, START FIRES, AND WRECK THE COMPANY... IT'S THE OLD "PROTECTION" RACKET ALL OVER AGAIN... IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO GIVE THEM SO MUCH MONEY WE COULD ALL BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!
SO THAT'S IT, EH! I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON THOSE CHEAP CROOKS! I'M GOING TO HELP YOU, DAISY!

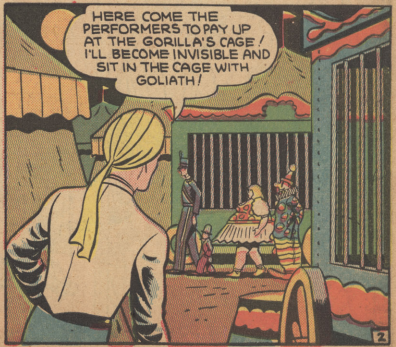

THAT'S SWELL, MYSTIC / WHILE YOU'RE HERE TAKE A LOOK AT TWO TON TILLIE. SHE'S BEEN POISONED JUST TO SHOW US WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ALL THE ELEPHANTS IF WE DON'T PAY UP!
LET'S SEE HER!


HMM... SHE ISN'T SERIOUSLY ILL / I'LL MAKE HER FEEL BETTER!


AH-ROOR!
THAT'S BETTER TILLIE / MY MAGIC WORKED! IF THERE IS ANYTHING I DESPISE, IT'S AN ANIMAL POISONER!


NOW, DAISY! WHO COLLECTS THE MONEY FOR THIS GANG?
THAT'S THE BIG MYSTERY / WE HAVE TO PUT IT IN GOLIATH, THE GORILLA'S CAGE, AND WHOEVER COLLECTS THE MONEY, TAKES IT FROM THERE... AND WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE WHO IT IS! AND TONIGHT'S THE TIME FOR ANOTHER COLLECTION.


THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW! I'LL SEE IF I CAN CATCH THE CULPRIT... YOU GO ON AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED AND PAY UP AS BEFORE. I'LL SEE YOU LATER!


HERE COME THE PERFORMERS TO PAY UP AT THE GORILLA'S CAGE / I'LL BECOME INVISIBLE AND SIT IN THE CAGE WITH GOLIATH!
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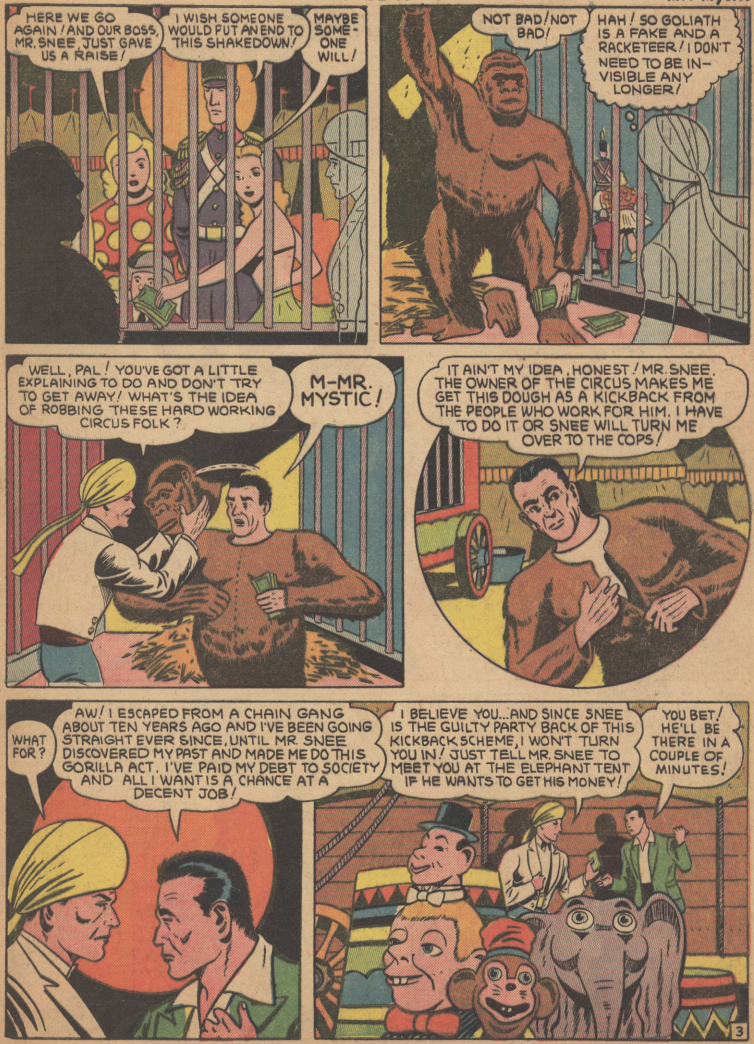
HERE WE GO AGAIN! AND OUR BOSS, MR. SNEE, JUST GAVE US A RAISE!
I WISH SOMEONE WOULD PUT AN END TO THIS SHAKEDOWN!
MAYBE SOMEONE WILL!
NOT BAD! NOT BAD!
HAH! SO GOLIATH IS A FAKE AND A RACKETEER! I DON'T NEED TO BE INVISIBLE ANY LONGER!
WELL, PAL! YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE EXPLAINING TO DO AND DON'T TRY TO GET AWAY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF ROBBING THESE HARD WORKING CIRCUS FOLK?
M-MR. MYSTIC!
IT AIN'T MY IDEA, HONEST! MR. SNEE, THE OWNER OF THE CIRCUS MAKES ME GET THIS DOUGH AS A KICKBACK FROM THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR HIM. I HAVE TO DO IT OR SNEE WILL TURN ME OVER TO THE COPS!
WHAT FOR?
AW! I ESCAPED FROM A CHAIN GANG ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO AND I'VE BEEN GOING STRAIGHT EVER SINCE, UNTIL MR. SNEE DISCOVERED MY PAST AND MADE ME DO THIS GORILLA ACT. I'VE PAID MY DEBT TO SOCIETY AND ALL I WANT IS A CHANCE AT A DECENT JOB!
I BELIEVE YOU...AND SINCE SNEE IS THE GUILTY PARTY BACK OF THIS KICKBACK SCHEME, I WON'T TURN YOU IN! JUST TELL MR. SNEE TO MEET YOU AT THE ELEPHANT TENT IF HE WANTS TO GET HIS MONEY!
YOU BET! HE'LL BE THERE IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES!
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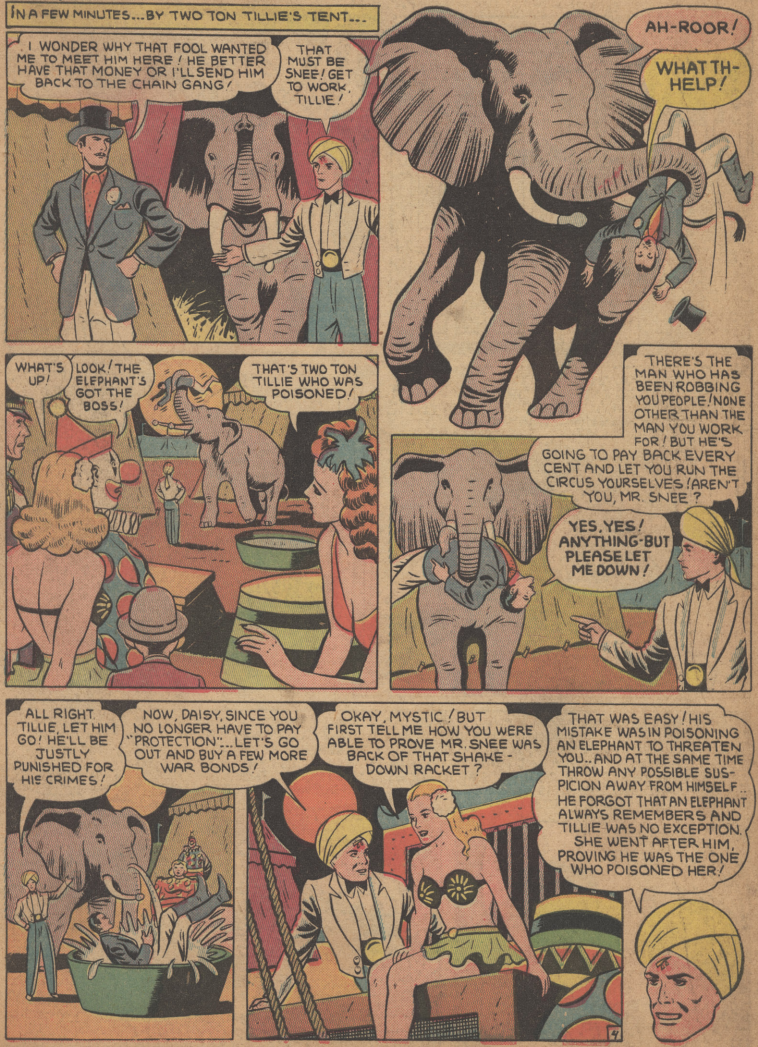
IN A FEW MINUTES...BY TWO TON TILLIE'S TENT...
I WONDER WHY THAT FOOL WANTED ME TO MEET HIM HERE! HE BETTER HAVE THAT MONEY OR I'LL SEND HIM BACK TO THE CHAIN GANG!
THAT MUST BE SNEE! GET TO WORK, TILLIE!
AH-ROOR!
WHAT TH- HELP!
WHAT'S UP!
LOOK! THE ELEPHANT'S GOT THE BOSS!
THAT'S TWO TON TILLIE WHO WAS POISONED!
THERE'S THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN ROBBING YOU PEOPLE! NONE OTHER THAN THE MAN YOU WORK FOR! BUT HE'S GOING TO PAY BACK EVERY CENT AND LET YOU RUN THE CIRCUS YOURSELVES! AREN'T YOU, MR. SNEE?
YES, YES! ANYTHING-BUT PLEASE LET ME DOWN!
ALL RIGHT, TILLIE, LET HIM GO! HE'LL BE JUSTLY PUNISHED FOR HIS CRIMES!
NOW, DAISY, SINCE YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO PAY "PROTECTION"... LET'S GO OUT AND BUY A FEW MORE WAR BONDS!
OKAY, MYSTIC! BUT FIRST TELL ME HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO PROVE MR. SNEE WAS BACK OF THAT SHAKE-DOWN RACKET?
THAT WAS EASY! HIS MISTAKE WAS IN POISONING AN ELEPHANT TO THREATEN YOU... AND AT THE SAME TIME THROW ANY POSSIBLE SUSPICION AWAY FROM HIMSELF... HE FORGOT THAT AN ELEPHANT ALWAYS REMEMBERS AND TILLIE WAS NO EXCEPTION. SHE WENT AFTER HIM, PROVING HE WAS THE ONE WHO POISONED HER!